

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 15 to 20 remain pending. Claims 2 to 11, 82, and 83 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 09164300A to Nakao et al (Nakao) in view of JP 6122890A to Kuwamoto et al. (Kuwamoto), U.S. Published Application No. 2001/0032403 to Har et al. (Har), and JP 08262052 A to Hashimoto (Hashimoto).

The rejection of claims 1 and 12 to 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto is overcome. Present independent claim 1 as amended requires that (1) the claimed invention be directed to a fabric grooming device having the controller as a component thereof; (2) the fabric grooming device have a steam generator, a housing, a fluid reservoir, and a heating plate; (3) the input selectors have an image or symbol associated therewith for identifying the function and/or operation corresponding thereto; (4) at least one of the input selectors is a touch-sensitive LED panel; and (5) at least one of the output selectors is a touch-sensitive LED panel. The combination of Nakao, Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto does not disclose or suggest a fabric grooming device having features (3) and (4).

In the later rejection of claims 5 and 10 in item #8, the Action stated admitted that Nakao, Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto do not disclose input selectors and output indicators as taking the form of an LED panel. The Action goes on to state that U.S. Published Application No. 2003/0074903 to Upadhye et al. (Upadhye) discloses an input user interface touchscreen LCD or LED panel for a portable heating device. The Action further goes

on to state that the portable heating device of Upadhye as being an equivalent structure known in the art.

Claim 1 as amended is deemed to distinguish over the additional disclosure of Upadhye (in any combination with Nakao, Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto). Claim 1 is directed specifically to a fabric grooming device having the particular structural components set forth in feature (2) above. These structural components are not disclosed in Upadhye. Further, the portable heating device of Upadhye cannot be considered equivalent to the claimed fabric grooming device since it lacks the fluid containing and steam generation capabilities of the claimed device.

The rejection of claims 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto is moot since they have been canceled.

Claims 5 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto as applied to claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 above and further in view of U.S. 2003/0074903 to Upadhye et al. (Upadhye).

The rejection of claims 5 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto as applied to claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 above and further in view of Upadhye is moot since they have been canceled.

Claims 18 to 20, 82, and 83 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto as applied to claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, and 12 to 17 above and further in view of U.S. 6,255,630 to Barnes et al. (Barnes).

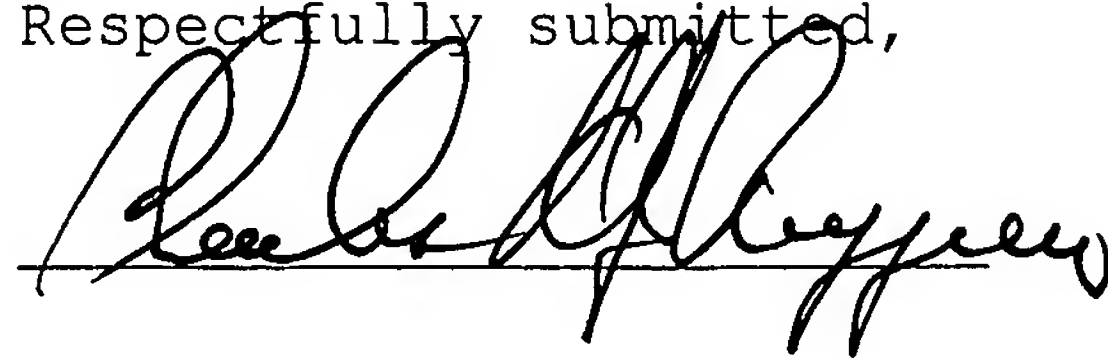
The rejection of claims 18 to 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto and further in view of Barnes is overcome. Independent claims 18 to 20 require that (1) the claimed invention be directed to a fabric grooming device having the controller as a component thereof; (2) the fabric grooming device have a steam generator, a housing, a fluid reservoir, and a heating plate; (3) the input selectors have an image or symbol associated therewith for identifying the function and/or operation corresponding thereto; (4) at least one of the input selectors is a touch-sensitive LED panel; and (5) at least one of the output selectors is a touch-sensitive LED panel. The combination of Nakao in view of Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto and further in view of Barnes does not disclose or suggest a fabric grooming device having such features. As discussed above, the combination of Nakao in view of Kuwamoto, Har, and Hashimoto does not disclose features (3) and (4). Barnes likewise does not disclose features (3) and (4) as it discloses LCD panels instead of LED panels. Upadhye does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosures of Kuwamoto, Har, Hashimoto, and Barnes for the reasons discussed above.

The rejection of claims 82 and 83 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nakao in view of Kuwamoto and further in view of Barnes is moot since they have been canceled.

Reconsideration of claims 1 and 15 to 20 is deemed warranted in view of the foregoing, and allowance of said claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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